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one give any definite information in regard to the Boston Back Bay locality?

The plant, as it occurs in Rhode Island, is $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 ft. high, sometimes scarcely branched, but usually much branched either below or above; with solitary naked pedunculate involucre head-like clusters of blue flowers, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter. Flowers pedicellate; calyx-lobes and the divisions of the deeply parted corolla linear; anthers united; ovary and fruit 2-celled; ovules and seeds numerous.

J. FRANKLIN COLLINS.

BROWN UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM, PROVIDENCE.

Botanical Notes.

The second annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America will be held in Buffalo, N. Y., on Friday and Saturday, August 21 and 22, 1896. The Council will meet at 1:30 p. m. on Friday, and the Society will be called to order at 3 p. m., by the retiring president, Dr. William Trelease, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. The President-elect, Dr. Charles E. Bessey, Professor of Botany in the University of Nebraska, will then take the chair. The afternoon session will be devoted to business. At the evening session the retiring President will deliver a public address on "Botanical Opportunity." The sessions for the reading of papers will be held on Saturday at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. The Botanical Society of America is affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, whose sessions this year begin on Monday, August 24th, in Buffalo.

C. R. BARNES, *Secretary*.

Reviews.

The Structure and Development of the Mosses and Ferns (Archegoniatae). By Douglas Houghton Campbell. 544 pp. 8vo. Price \$4.00. Macmillan & Co. 1895.

This book has been welcomed by all students of the Mosses and Ferns and has everywhere been received with gratitude. From the fact that it gives us in a compact form and clear style the most recent results of foreign investigation into the life-history and em-

bryogeny of these plants, with a complete index to the literature from which these results have been obtained, it is invaluable; and its worth is further enhanced by the original investigations which Dr. Campbell has made upon some of our native species. We welcome these with peculiar pleasure, and have only ourselves to blame, if from a systematic standpoint we can see where it might have been bettered. The chapter on the Bryineae is peculiarly interesting to us, for the light thrown by morphological investigations into several mooted questions of classification is particularly welcome at this time. There is great divergence of opinion among recent monographers, as to the systematic position of the cleistocarpous mosses. Braithwaite scatters them among the higher families of mosses, and Limpricht recognizes fifteen genera, including some species which are very doubtful, such as *Physcomitrella Hampei* Limpr. Dr. Campbell gives us the comparisons between *Ephemerum*, *Phascum* and *Pleuridium* with *Funaria*, and the results are very interesting, but we venture to suggest that there are two American mosses which would better represent perhaps the two extremes, *Micromitrium megalosporum* Aust. and *Bruchia longicollis* Eaton. The morphology of the stem and leaves in *Fissidens*, *Bryoziphium*, *Schistostega* and *Leucobryum* are also particularly instructive from a systematic standpoint, as well as the conclusions reached with regard to the place which *Archidium* and *Buxbaumia* should hold as the extremes of differentiation in the sporophyte. We are pleased to see that *Archidium Ravenelii* Aust. has been figured by Dr. Campbell, and agree with him that the question as to whether the cleistocarpous mosses are rudimentary or degenerate forms is a difficult one to decide; yet we feel a personal bias toward the opinion that they are primitive forms.

E. G. B.

Wild Flowers of the North-Eastern States, being three hundred and eight individuals common to the northeastern United States, drawn and described from life. Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting. Cloth, 4to, pp. 622, plates 308. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1895.

This is the latest of the many recent attempts to popularize and render easy the study, or rather the naming, of plants. The work makes no pretense of being scientific, and the authors state

that the collection of flowers represented on its pages was gathered together "with the hope of making their acquaintance more easy to non-scientific folk than the much condensed manuals of our flora are able to do."

The family sequence is that of Gray's Manual, as is also the nomenclature and terminology, in regard to which the authors ingeniously remark: "The choice of botanical terms has been intentionally confined to those which long usage has so wrought into common speech that they have practically ceased to belong to strictly scientific nomenclature."

The figures are sketchy, but are perfectly true to nature, are entirely lacking in stiffness or conventionality, and give in every instance an excellent general idea of the plant's appearance in the field. The descriptions are simple; they include both the botanical and popular names, and many little notes and hints which never find place in a scientific work. The exceedingly popular style of the text which prevails throughout may be judged from the following extract under "*Hypericum maculatum*, Lesser St. John's Wort. * * * This little plant's habits are in marked contrast to its larger brother John, for it is as tidy in rolling up into tiny bundles its faded petals as the other is careless of appearances."

Taken all in all, the book will always be useful for assistance in determining the names of the plants which are figured, and it is a matter for regret that the work has not been carried any further. It compares more than favorably with most other works of its kind.

A. H.

Notes on the ninth Edition of the London Catalogue of British Plants. G. Claridge Druce. *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, 1896: 38-53.

Our attention has been called to this interesting paper by the learned editor of the "Journal of Botany" in the February issue of his now happily enlarged organ. Mr. Druce's review of the "London Catalogue" is critical and valuable, including matters of typography, classification, generic limitations, capitalization of specific names, citation and nomenclature. He points out that a large number of generic and specific names adopted in the Catalogue are antedated by others, and calls for the abandonment of

the newer ones. We quote a few sentences, in order to show that Mr. Druce is sound on principles of nomenclature :

“ The names adopted for many plants differ from those given in the preceding Catalogue ; but the change is in almost all cases caused by following the only safe guide, *i. e.*, the law of priority of nomenclature.”

“ Many of the names given in the Catalogue do not follow the law of priority. It would be well to carry out this law as far as possible.”

“ In the Catalogue brackets are used to enclose the names of some authorities for varietal names. They appear to be used when a writer has described as a species a plant to which is now given only varietal rank, or when a writer has placed it as a variety of a species which then bore a different name from the one now employed.”

“ In the preface, as already alluded to, a statement is made that pre-Linnaean authorities for genera are not cited. It would have been better to have made the statement more precise, and to have stated that the date whence the citation, either of species or genera, should commence, is the year 1753, when the ‘Species Plantarum’ was published—the first work in which the binomial system of nomenclature was consistently adopted. As it is, in the present Catalogue the names of several authors which are cited are, strictly speaking, pre-Linnaean ; that is, they published the genera to which their names are attached before the issue of the ‘Species Plantarum.’ By citing authors before the date 1753 (and after the first edition of the ‘Genera Plantarum’ in 1737) a host of genera are brought into competition with existing names, a danger which it would be well to avoid. Also the date 1753 received the assent of the late Alphonse de Candolle when the writer suggested it to him shortly after the publication of Kuntze’s ‘Revisio Generum Plantarum,’ with its vast number of changes of plant names. Moreover, this date has been recommended by the Berlin committee of botanists, as well as by the conference of botanists which met at Genoa ; and it is adopted by the majority of botanists in Europe and America.”

“ To one method of citation used in the Catalogue the writer must raise a protest, as it seriously threatens to hinder that uni-

formity of nomenclature which can be obtained only by adopting the law of priority. Mr. Hanbury himself, in his arrangement of the Hieracia, consistently and correctly uses the Linnaean names of *Hieracium alpinum* and *H. Murorum* in a more restricted sense than did Linnaeus."

"But, unfortunately, another practice, which is, I think, to be strongly deprecated, has been followed in some cases, which consists in giving up the older name, which, according to the rule of priority, should be adopted for a more recent one, because the species as first described is now considered to be made up of more than one species."

N. L. B.

Flora of Nebraska, part 21, Rosales. Per Axel Rydberg. Edited by the members of the Botanical Seminar of the University of Nebraska. Lincoln, 1895 (issued December 30). \$1.00.

This is a very welcome addition to local botany and is the second part issued of this excellent work.

After discussing certain points concerning the morphology and terminology of different parts of the flower, the author takes up the order of Calyciflora, beginning with the family Rosaceae. Schemes of the relationships of the higher groups are inserted and keys to all the groups from the suborders to species are given. The idea in the treatment of the families and species is segregation, thus avoiding much confusion. In place of Leguminosae we find Caesalpinaceae, Mimosaceae and Papilionaceae, while the Grossulariaceae are taken out of Saxifragaceae.

Psoralea collina, *Kuhnistera candida diffusa*, *Lathyrus ornatus flavescens*, *L. ornatus incanus* and *Ribes aureum chrysococcum* are described as new. The nomenclature is based on the most advanced and practical ideas. An excellent feature of the work is the numerous original plates which contain figures showing the diagnostic characters of the several tribes. All the Nebraska species of *Astragalus* are figured.

J. K. S.

The Potomac Formation. Lester F. Ward. 15th Ann. Rept. U. S. Geol. Surv. 1893-94 [Washington, 1895], 307-397. *pl.* 2-4 and illust. in text.

The value of this contribution will be appreciated by the geologist more than by the botanist, but the botanist will find it of interest for the reason that palaeobotany plays such an impor-

tant part in it throughout. The flora of the Potomac Formation is represented in part by the most ancient dicotyledonous angiosperms of which we have any knowledge—archaic types, in which the outlines of subsequent modern genera are foreshadowed. The following new species are figured: *Scleropteris Vernonensis*, *Zamia Washingtoniana*, *Casuarina Covillei*, *Sagittaria Victor-Masoni*, *Antholithus Gaudium-Rosae*, *Populus Potomacensis*, *P. auriculata* and *Celastrorhynchium Hunteri*.

As a demonstration of the value of palaeobotany in determining the stratigraphic relations of beds this contribution is a masterpiece and its appearance will be welcomed by all workers in the geology and palaeontology of the central plain region.

A. H.

Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 9TH, 1896.

President Brown in the chair and thirty members present.

Miss Fanny A. Mulford and Mr. Charles W. Mulford were elected active members.

Dr. Schneider read his announced paper, "The Uses of Lichens," giving an instructive account of the past and present uses of these plants in medicine and the arts.

The next paper was that of Mr. P. A. Rydberg entitled "Preliminary notes on a Revision of the North American Species of *Potentilla* and related Genera." This was accompanied by numerous specimens and drawings and elicited remarks from the President and Mrs. Britton.

Mrs. Britton then read a paper, "Notes on Mexican Mosses," giving a short historical account of the various collections of mosses which have been made in Mexico and in comparing the number of genera and species common to Mexico and the United States. Numerous specimens were exhibited.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 29TH, 1896.

President Brown in the chair and sixty-four persons present.

Dr. Britton announced his associates on the Field Committee